

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2201
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2015
Digitization of Cable Network
Gandhi Shri Feroze Varun;Raj Dr. Udit

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of digitization cable television sector in the country;
- (b) whether the Government has set any deadlines for its implementation in all the States of the country, if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;
- (c) the number of application received from Multi System Operators (MSO) for registration from various cities along with MSO available in the said cities, city-wise and State/UT-wise;
- (d) whether the Government is facing any opposition from MSOs and LCOs in phase III, if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon; and
- (e) whether the government has undertaken any detailed study to identify bottlenecks to achieve complete digitization in the country, if so the further steps taken/being taken by the Government to expedite the digitalization process?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING {COL RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE (Retd.)}

(a) and (b): As per the notification S.O. 2534(E) dated 11.11.2011 issued by the Ministry, digitization of cable TV in India is to be completed in four Phases. Phase-I which covers four metro cities namely Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai and Mumbai have been completed on 31.10.12 except Chennai since some court cases are pending there. Phase-II of the cable TV digitization which covers 38 cities having the population more than 10 lakhs have been completed by 31.03.2013 except Coimbatore where some court cases are pending. Phase-III cable TV digitization shall cover all the urban areas (except areas already covered in Phase-I and Phase-II) for which the cut-off date is 31st December, 2015 whereas the cut-off date for Phase-IV covering rest of India is 31st December, 2016.

(c): As on date, 1158 applications have been received in the Ministry to register first time as Multi System Operators (MSOs) to operate in Digital Addressable System (DAS) notified areas of Cable TV across the country and/or extension of areas of operation. 230 regular registrations and 323 provisional registrations totalling to 553 registrations have been issued so far. 27 MSO registrations have been cancelled.

The city-wise and State/UT-wise details are available on the Ministry's website i.e. www.mib.nic.in.

(d): No Sir.

(e) No, Sir. However, to steer the process of Cable TV Digitization, a Task Force, comprising of all the stakeholders, has been constituted in the Ministry. Monthly meetings of the Task Force are held to assess progress and to identify solutions on issues raised.
